

## **TEMPORARY VERSUS PERMANENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are utilized to minimize erosion and sedimentation before, during and after development, construction, mining or agricultural projects. Temporary BMPs are designed for relatively short periods of time, before and during a specific project or until permanent BMPs are installed. Permanent BMPs are designed, constructed and maintained to function the entire life of the project and may be retained after the life of the project.

Temporary BMPs are typically designed for periods of up to one year or one winter and spring runoff season and may require a significant amount of maintenance depending on the extent of the surface disturbances and the intensity of precipitation and storm events which occur during the life of the project.

The primary difference between temporary and permanent BMPs is the construction materials and the design life. While a straw bale sediment barrier will function well on a temporary basis, a more permanent barrier or sediment basin would be required for long term or permanent installation. Most large scale development, mining or construction projects install permanent BMPs initially because the life of the project, or the magnitude of the surface disturbance warrants such an approach. A single family dwelling under a construction schedule of nine months, for example, would probably not require permanent BMPs. The specific conditions of the site, the project schedule and the proposed amount of surface disturbance typically govern the number and type of BMPs necessary to prevent nonpoint source pollution.

While any permanent BMP can function as a temporary BMP, temporary BMPs will not function as permanent BMPs. The BMPs contained within this Handbook have not been categorized by "temporary" and "permanent"; rather those BMPs that are temporary are so noted. The reader is directed to specific BMPs for his or her need (i.e. Erosion & Sediment Controls, Soil Stabilization Practices, etc.).